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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FI. 239

On White

MARCH, 1963

Seasonal Employment Decline 1,100 Below Past Past Five Years

The seasonal employment decline in Montana's labor markets between January and February this year was substantially less than in recent years. The employment drop this year was figured at 400 compared with an average of about 1,500 between these two months during the past five years. More workers were employed in Montana this February than any other February of record. Estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that 161,500 workers received paychecks from the state's non-farm employers at mid-February. This was a gain of 3,300 from February, 1962.

Most Gain in Two Groups

Manufacturing and mining industries provided the base for the over-the-year employment gain. Employment in manufacturing industries was up 2,300 from last February with gains of 800 posted in lumber oriented activities, and 1,900 as a result of Minuteman installation operations. Employment losses of 300 in primary metals and 100 in the non-durable goods category subtracted from the total of these two gains leaves a net increment of 2,300.

The mining group appears to be on a slow road to recovery after some rough times following the 1957-58 recession. Employment in metal mining was 500 higher than a year ago. Employment gains of 400 in petroleum and natural gas production, and 100 in coal, quarrying and non-metalize mining brought the total increase to 1,000 in this industry classification.

BACK TO WORK CALL SOUNDED IN INDUSTRY AND FARM AS SPRING JOB SHAPE-UP BEGINS

At the end of February, over 17,000 Montanans registered for employment at the State's 22 local employment offices, were waiting for the spring upswing in jobs so they could return to work. The depressing effect of winter was gone and jobs in industry and farm were starting to open up at the rate of about 500 a week. As the work season advances, agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and trade and service establishments will provide the majority of the job opportunities. Although the spring job outlook is bright, it is tempered by some disturbing factors. Although there has been some industrial expansion in Montana during the past year, it has not been able to keep pace with a growing labor force. The entry of high school and college graduates into the labor market this summer will add to the problem. The paradox of record-breaking employment, coupled with high unemployment, will undoubtedly remain a part of the summer labor market scene.

Mixed Trends in Others

Moderate employment advances from last February are recorded in three other major industry groups with declines in another three. A gain of 800 in government employment is all at the state and local levels. The broad service industries group, which includes hotels, business services, dry cleaning etablishments, repair services, medical, legal and educational services and a variety of others, was up 300. Finance, insurance and real estate units had 100 more personnel this February than last.

Employment in contract construction followed the normal patterns of winter decline plus the phasing out of the construction aspects of the Minuteman missile complex. Both combined to reduce construction employment by 1,000 from February, 1962. Smaller declines occurred in trade, and the transportation, communications and utilities group, each down by 100.

Growth in 1962

A recent Bureau of Labor Statistics report points out that the number of non-agri-

cultural jobs in the Western states increased by 3.9 per cent during 1962. The job gain in Montana was 3.5 per cent, making Montana seventh in job expansion during 1962 in comparison with the other Western states. The percentage employment growth in the other states is listed as follows: Nevada, 10.6; Utah, 5.0; Oregon, 4.7; Arizona, 4.4; California, 4.2; Alaska, 4.0; New Mexico, 3.3; Washington, 2.5; Colorado, 2.4; Hawaii 1.6; Wyoming, 1.0; and Idaho, 0.1.

1962 Employment Averages 170,000

Ranging from a low of 158,200 in February to a peak of 177,900 in August, nonfarm employment in Montana averaged 170,000 during 1962. It was the highest yearly average of record, and 2,900 above 1961 average employment. Employment expansion during 1962 was centered in four industry groups: manufacturing, up 1,600; construction, up 1,000; government, up 900; and service industries, up 400. Employment in four other major industry groups declined slightly during 1962.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
INDUSTRY	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Jan. 1963	2) Dec 1962	Jan. 1962	Jan. 1963	Dec. 1962	Jan. 1962	Jan. 1963	Dec. 1962	Jan. 1962	Jan. 1963	Dec. 1962	Jan. 1962	Jan. 1963	Dec. 1962	Jan. 1962
3) All Manufacturing Durable Goods Primary Metal 3) Nondurable Goods	3.3	2.1 2.5 .7 1.3	3.2 4.1 2.4 1.6	1.8 2.1 1.3 1.2	1.7 2.0 .3 1.0	2.2 2.8 .1 1.1	3.8 4.9 2.7 1.3	4.8 5.7 3.5 2.7	3.9 4.7 2.5 2.5	1.3 1.7 .8 .5	1.4 1.7 .2 .7	1.1 1.2 .3 .8	1.6 2.1 .3 .3	2.6 3.0 1.4 1.8	2.0 2.4 .7 1.3
All Mining Metal Mining	7.5 8.5	5.3 6.2	7.9 5.5	4.6 3.7	2.9 2.1	3.7 .4	6.8 6.8	4.1	5.6 4.5	2.9 2.4	2.2 2.2	2.0 2.0	1.0	.7 .2	1.9

¹⁾ Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures revised on more complete returns.

3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.



Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary Feb. 1

ANACONDA Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(443 jobseekers, 72 new, 302 men, 141 women). Job hires down 50 per cent from January as employment activities in outside work and trade establishments continue in seasonal decline. Smelter employment remains fairly constant with over 2,200 employed. Some hiring under the Public Works program scheduled for early March.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,520 jobscekers, 729 new, 2,571 men, 949 women). Building, highway, and dam construction resumed during February as weather improved. Work force at Yellowtail Dam expanded to 300 workers. Work on new \$5½ million federal building set to start mid-April. Trade and service employment holding up well but with little additional hiring evident. Seasonal shutdown of Roundup coal mining operations idled 40 men with little hope of immediate other employment. Oil field exploration activities up slightly. Start of spring farm work creaed more jobs.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident —(655 jobseekers, 175 new, 404 men, 251 women). Increased labor market activity started to show in most industry segments during February. Work on building projects resumed after weather-caused January shutdown. New projects include super market, two highway bridges, and an overpass. Steady trends hold in logging and sawmill work, unaffected by spring breakup conditions. Good trends for main street seen.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(998 jobseekers, 324 new. 654 men, 344 women). Labor market trends paced by increased hiring at metal mines. Twenty-seven miners trained under the ARA program now employed. Copper concentrator plant main construction activity with 950 working. Work on highway projects should resume during March. Main street hiring not too active; several small business closures noted.

CUT BANK—(396 jobseekers, 44 new, 296 men, 100 women). Hiring under the Public Works program at Browning highlighted February labor market avetivity; 64 now employed with potential force of 100. Construction work slow at present but planned 50 unit housing program at Browning should create demand for building craftsmen. Farm labor demand mainly for sheep tagging. Shearing operations slated for March.

DILLON—(196 jobseekers, 55 new, 163 men, 33 women). Work on \$22 million irrigation, and Clark Canyon Dam projects resumed during February. This project, now over 50 per cent done and scheduled for completion by late 1964. Construction of

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

158,200	
	153,700 3,717
3,301 20,627	18,424
Mar. 2 1962	Avg. Ist Mar. Wk. 1959-63
1,674 11,781 13,455	1,554 14,353 15,897
	Mar. 2 1962 1,674

three major building projects including apartment house, church, and drive-in bank over half done. Main street trends slow in improving despite good weather.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(489 jobseekers, 62 new, 330 men, 159 women). Hiring trends in most industries started to look up with return of good weather. Increased hiring noted at garages, service stations, cafes, and other trade establishments. Work on 60 low rental housing units main construction activity. Air base projects employ only skeleton crews as most work shutdown.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(403 jobseekers, 48 new ,280 men, 123 women). Labor market trends rather weak during February. Construction not too active but about 50 employed on three building projects. Oil field work still slow but some hiring done for oil exploration crews. Moderate hiring on the farm front.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,370 jobseekers, 578 new, 1,725 men, 645 women). Labor market patterns during February kept close to seasonal lines with hiring mostly for replacements only. Bulk of labor demand came from service industries followed by trade industry job orders. Construction activity remained at near stand still but three building projects totaling \$7½ million ready to start. Only moderate hiring occurred at smelter operations.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(342 jobseecrs, 50 new, 285 men, 57 women). Labor market indicators point to gradual pick-up in most industries. Seasonal callbacks of workers idled by January weather and Public Works program referrals cut jobseekers' files. Spring breakup conditions curtailed logging and affected operations at some mills. Farm labor demand not too sharp.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlen—(518 jobseekers, 126 new, 451 men, 67 women). Job placements below last month and last year as labor market trends on the passive side. General pick-up seen next month as work resumes on several major building projects, trade starts spring expansion, and farm jobs develop. The Public Works program on the

Fort Belknap Indian Reservation provided some jobs during February.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(873 jobseekers, 181 new, 707 men, 166 women). No significant change in labor market conditions from last month and last year. Recall of construction and lumber workers was common throughout the month as weather improved. Most new job hires were in clerical fields. \$5 million in road projects ready to start. New \$10 million cement plant at Montana City started production March 8.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,544 jobseekers, 227 new, 1,269 mcn, 275 women). Return of good weather sparked more activity in construction and projects under the Public Works program. Logging suffered, however, as spring road breakup conditions and load limits cut woods operations. Stockpiled logs permitted most mills to operate and some worker recalls and new hiring was evident. Main street trends not yet too active and several small businesses closed.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(500 jobseekers, 72 new, 410 men, 90 women). Job hires in both industry and farm exceed last month and last year. Work on missile installation program largest project in area, employing about 1,000 workers. Commercial and home building occupies 65 workers. Trade and service volume keeps close to seasonal lines.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(465 jobseekers, 64 new, 321 men, 144 women). Most outside labor market activity held in check early February by bad weather. Most mills and logging operations returned to normal with better weather. Main street hiring not too sharp but some demand for cooks and waitresses. Little demand for sales clerks and office workers.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(409 jobseckers, 44 new, 347 men, 62 women). No appreciable change in labor market conditions forecast for 1963. Trends in both industry and farm expected to remain at normal levels. Possible

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956		154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	1500	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1938	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.9	1548	156.1	160,2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	165.5	170.9	179.4	178.5	177.9	175.8	174.2	172.3	169.6	170.0
1963	161.9	161.5**											

Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary Feb. 1

uptrends in trade industries could offset construction employment losses.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,123 jobseekers, 401 new, 771 men, 352 women). General upturn in lumbering and construction highlighted February labor market scene. \$12 million in highway projects should be in progress by May 1. Fair trends prevailed in retail trade establishments; addition to shopping center made 24 jobs. Spring breakup of logging roads caused some layoffs of woods workers.

POLSON—(475 jobseekers, 48 new, 387 men, 88 women). Job hires down from last year due to lack of major construction projects. All lumber mills kept on steady schedules during February. Logging was starting to show first signs of temporary declines because of road conditions and load limits. Some hiring under the Public Works program for Indian service projects.

SHELBY—(399 jobseekers, 63 new, 313 men, 86 women). Generally tight economic conditions exist because of earlier drought conditions in a predominately rural economy. February hiring slow in all outdoor industries with exception of some new activity in oil fields. Several building and highway projects expected to start April.

SIDNEY—(266 jobseekers, 70 new, 253 men, 13 women). February labor market activity limited to recall of some construction and oil field workers. Sugar beet refining operations ended February 15 releasing 180 workers. Some upturn in trade forecast during March as roadside drive-ins reopened and spring employment expansion occurred in other establishments.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(252 jobseekers, 51 new, 214 men, 38 women). Job placements under the Public Works program accounted for nearly half of all hires during February. More employment expansion under this program set for March. Logging crews kept on good schedules but some declines anticipated during March because of spring breakup conditions. Most mills expect to operate steadily on stockpiled logs during this period.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(396 jobseekers, 36 new, 338 men, 58 women). Construction employment at winter low due to weather-caused layoffs and some completed projects. New building projects totaling \$875,000 scheduled to start about April. Some hiring noted for oil oriented activities, mostly for exploration crews. No change in oil drilling operations. Trade employment up slightly with reopening of cafe employing ten.

- (I) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-emptoyed persons are excluded.
- (2) Prailminary estimates based on return from samples of 839 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,290 such estabtishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	EN	PLOYME	Net Change			
INDUSTRY	Feb. 1963 (2)	Jan. 1963 (3)	Feb. 1962	Jan. '63 to Feb. '63	Feb. '62 to Feb. '63	
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	161,500	161,900	158,200	400	3,300	
Manufacturing	21,900	21,800	 19,600	100	2,300	
Durable goods	14,800	14,700	12,400	100	2,400	
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	8,100 3,200 3,500	3,200	3,500		_ 300	
Nondurable goods	7,100	7,100	7,200	00	100	
Food and kindred products	3,800 1,700 1,100 500		3,700 1,700 1,100 700	00	00 00	
Mining Metal mining Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic Petroleum-natural gas production	7,500 4,300 800 2,400	4,300 800	6,500 3,800 700 2,000	00 00	500 100	
Contract Construction	7,900 2,000 1,800 4,100	8,400 2,200 2,000 4,200	8,900 2,000 3,400 3,500	- 200 - 200	00	
Transportation and utilities	17,100 7,600 3,800 5,700		17,200 7,900 3,500 5,800	100	- 300 300	
Trade	37,000 7,600 29,400 5,800 4,700 6,800 6,300 5,800	7,700 29,300 5,900 4,600 6,800 6,200	37,100 8,100 29,000 5,500 4,800 6,800 6,000 5,900	- 100 100 - 100 100 00 100	- 500 400 300 - 100 00 300	
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,700	6,600	6,600	100	100	
Services and miscellaneous	23,000 2,500 1,900 18,600		22,700 2,400 1,900 18,400	— 100 00	300 100 00 200	
Government Federal State and local	40,400 10,100 30,300	40,600 10,200 30,400	39,600 10,200 29,400	<u> </u>	800 100 900	
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,300 5,300 1,900 2,100 5,400 1,200 3,500 3,900	23,100 5,200 1,800 2,100 5,400 1,200 3,500 3,900	22,000 3,300 2,600 2,100 5,300 1,200 3,500 4,000	200 100 100 00 00 00 00 00 00	1,300 2,000 700 00 100 00 00 100	
Billings Area (Yellowstone County) Manufacturing Contract construction Transportation and utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Finance, Insurance, Real Estate Services and Miscellaneous (7) Government	21,400 2,200 1,000 2,400 6,900 1,300 4,000 3,600	21,600 2,200 1,000 2,400 7,000 1,300 4,000 3,700	21,500 2,200 900 2,500 7,100 1,300 4,000 3,500	- 200 00 00 00 - 100 00 - 100	- 100 00 100 - 100 - 200 00 00 100	

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profif membership or-

ganizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN FEB. 1963 AND FEB. 1962

Employment	Nev	Job A	Applica	nts	Job	seekei	s in F	ile			J	ob Pla	cement			ا		aims*
Service	Feb.	1963	Feb.	1962	Feb.	1963	Feb.	1962		Feb.	1963	1		Feb.	1962		Wk.	3-1
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1963	1962
Anaconda Billings Bozeman Butte Cut Bank Dillon Glasgow Glendive Great Falls Hamilton Havre Helena Kalispell Lewistown Livingston Miles City Missoula Polson Shelby Sidney Thomp. Falls Wolf Point	55 62	8 9 35 43 15 7 5 82 7 13 10 12	89 64 96 61 403 65 86 147 134 63 49 39	13 113 23 56 14 18 18 14 86 12 22 13 8 5 7 8 45	3,520 655 998 396 196 489 403 2,370 342 518 873 1,544 500 465 409 1,123 475 399 266 252 396	75 849 123 228 118 50 88 41 698 82 146 269 461 113 99 97 330 135 87 49 68	251 616 293 3,040 586 750 846 1,882 385 548 455	76 815 160 389 92 69 197 78 838 144 193 242 414 100 137 157 110 58 112 122	18 322 90 125, 82 19 49 39 231 29 42 67 112 59 48 36 170 18 20 24 48 28	61 19 1 43 43 6 6 19 30 6 18 11 11 3 25 8 27 12 4 32 5	55 58 261 35 60 78 115 84 56 63 182 22 52	5 108 21 44 54 27 15 9 40 11 28 17 30 31 21 10 21 5 9	18 372 121 87 27 32 61 46 234 22 58 98 65 50 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37	6 79 20 4 56 36 11 30 4 19 9 28 6 5 25 12	451 141 91 83 68 72 49 303 33 88 102 65 65 69 46 69 46 69	7 185 29 15 15 26 25 10 94 6 20 23 10 16 38 37 21 11 11	131 375 204 1,415 284 351 653 1,410 373 383 338 1,003 218 206	324 252 279 288
TOTALS	3,520	634	3,301	627	17,032	4,305	20,627	5,130	1,676	373	2,049	546	1,688	435	2,123	636	11,808	13,455

^{*}Includes 1,073 claims of the Fed. UC Program 968 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average	Weekly 1	Earnings	Averag	ge Weekly	Hours	Average Hourly Earnings				
INDUSTRY	Feb. (1) 1963	Jan. (2) 1963	Feb. 1962	Feb. (1) 1963	Jan. (2) 1963	Feb. 1962	Feb. (1) 1963	Jan. (2) 1963	Feb. 1962		
All Manufacturing	\$108.53	\$107.33	\$100.86	40.8	39.9	39.4	\$ 2.66	\$ 2.69	\$ 2.56		
Durable goods	110.04	105.34	98.25	42.0	39.9	40.1	2.62	2.64	2.45		
Primary metals Nondurable goods	104.93 105.18	102.70 111.16	104.49 106.40	39.3 37.7	39.5 39.7	40.5 38.0	2.67 2.79	2.60 2.80	2.58 2.80		
Food and kindred products	89.62	95.04	93.77	38.3	41.5	39.4	2.34	2.29	2.38		
All Mining	108.13	110.30	113.52	39.9	40.7	42.2	2.71	2.71	2.69		
Metal mining	106.54	106.54	106.27	38.6	38.6	39.8	2.76	2.76	2.67		
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.) Transportation (except railroads) Utilities and communications	NA NA 91.55	NA NA 103.22	NA NA 97.66	NA NA 35.9	NA NA 39.7	NA NA 39.7	NA NA 2.55	NA NA 2.60	NA NA 2.46		

⁽¹⁾ Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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